

How to Save \$1,500 in Just Six Months

This free tip sheet was produced by the Cheapskates Club –
www.cheapskates.com.au

Tip No. 1 – Pack your own lunch

While it may seem to simple and common sense to be worth much, taking your lunch with you just one day a week saves an average of \$8 a week. Packed lunches don't have to be boring sandwiches either. Pack leftovers, use Mountain Bread to make wraps, heat filled burritos and wrap them in foil to stay warm, put casseroles, pasta dishes and soups into a wide mouth thermos. Don't buy water or juice from lunchbars, bring it from home in an insulated bottle.

Total saved: \$8

Tip No. 2 – Cut your grocery bill by 10%

The fastest way to save money is to cut the grocery bill. Start by spending 10% less a week. If your normal bill is \$200, then this week only spend \$180. You have \$20 to put straight into your holiday fund. If no one notices the difference, try cutting it by another 10% and adding that to your holiday fund each week.

Total saved: \$20

Tip No. 3 – Have a “No Spending” day once a week

Set at least one day a week where you don't spend a cent, either in cash or by card. Work out what you'll need to spend money on the day before (petrol, bus tickets, cat food, milk etc) and be sure to do it then. On “No Spending” day you can leave your purse at home because you won't be buying anything at all. Be sure to add your weekly “No Spend” day to your calendar and diary so you won't forget and spend your savings.

Total saved: \$20 - \$100

Tip No. 4 – Banking the leftovers

Put the leftovers from your weekly petrol budget into an interest earning holiday savings account at the end of each week. With fluctuating petrol prices the difference between your budgeted amount and the actual cost can be anywhere between \$5 - \$20 a week. \$20/wk for six months is \$520!

Total saved: \$5 - \$20

Tip No. 5 – Optimize your bills

Spend some time on the phone and call your phone provider, mobile provider, insurance companies, utilities companies, even your credit providers and negotiate a better rate. Most of us pick a plan or company and never investigate whether it's the right one for us or even the best value. You can negotiate with them to bring your costs down and improve the product or service you are buying. Half an hour on the phone can save hundreds of dollars off your bills each year.

Total saved: \$10

Total saved over six months: \$1,638



*The Cheapskates Club
Showing you how to save money, time
and energy and still have fun!*
www.cheapskates.com.au